

Narrators in Literature

Who can be a narrator in a story?

Anyone! Major or minor characters, protagonists or antagonists, even people outside the story completely

What are the types of narrators?

1) First Person: This is told directly from the perspective of the storyteller; the narrator uses “I,” “me,” and “we.”

ex: Scout in *TKAM*

2) Third Person Omniscient: This is told from the perspective of an “outside observer” who knows everything about all characters, like their actions, emotions, and thoughts.

ex: *Little Women*

3) Third Person Limited: This is like the omniscient, but the “outside observer” knows everything about ONE of the characters, not all of them.

ex: Harry in the *Harry Potter* books

How can a narrator affect the way a story is told?

Narrators can include bias, ignorance, misunderstandings, etc. into their storytelling. (Example: Think about how different this story would be if it was told from Dill’s point of view.)

What is unique about Scout’s telling of the story?

Scout is an adult telling the story of her childhood, so she can include both what she thought as a child **and** what she thinks now, as an adult. We often see her reflect on her childhood in the middle of a chapter, then go back to her younger self.

→ One example of this is in the last paragraph in chapter 9 (p. 117)